



THE SENATE SPOTLIGHT

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Gulf Coast devastated by Hurricane Katrina

Senators Cecil Staton and John Douglas survey damage and offer help to our sister states

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Sen. Cecil Staton and Sen. John Douglas toured the devastation and havoc wreaked by Hurricane Katrina via Blackhawk Helicopter - flying over the region for a view of the flooding in New Orleans and the wind damage in Pass Christian, Mississippi.

Sens. Staton and Douglas were joined by Rep. Allen Freeman and Maj. Gen. Scott Hammond, commander for the Georgia Air National Guard. The legislators flew out of Macon on a C-26 from Dobbins Air Reserve Base in Marietta for a series of military briefings by members of the Georgia National Guard and to inspect the damage on Georgia's neighboring states. Hurricane Katrina has been called the worst hurricane ever to hit the United States.

"To see what Mother Nature wrought on television is one thing," Sen. Staton said, "but to see it live and in person is quite another." He told of rooftop holes in homes where people hacked their way out of the rising flood waters so that they could be rescued by helicopter and of the stench that encompasses the entire region.

"Our troops from Robins Air Force Base are doing a tremendous job," he continued. "They have saved



lives, gotten food and water to people who need it, rescued family pets, kept order in the streets and have cleaned up debris that litters the entire area.



"This was an incredibly eye-opening experience," said Sen. Douglas. "Being here in the middle of where our nation's attention is focused brings a real sense of urgency to do all we can. Our young men and women in the National Guard should be commended for their tremendous service and effort to help our neighbors in need."

Douglas continued, "It is difficult to express the kind of devastation that we have seen in person, and I would like to remind everyone here that as the days go by, don't forget about what is going on there. The rebuilding of homes and lives will take years, and I ask everyone to do all they can and remember the victims of this tragedy in their prayers."

Sen. Staton and Sen. Douglas, along with their colleagues, met with troops in New Orleans, and St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana as well as those stationed in Gulfport, Mississippi. On their way home, their plane at Gulfport International Airport was delayed by the arrival of Air Force One and President Bush who went to the city's infamous Jackson Square to address the nation regarding the government's hurricane relief efforts.



The Senate Welcomes... Senator Ed Tarver!

Ed Tarver, the new Senator for the 22nd District, is a partner with the law firm of Hull, Towill, Norman, Barrett & Salley, P.C. Ed resides in Augusta with his wife Beverly (the former Beverly Myers) and they are the parents of two children -- Edward, Jr. ("Eddie") and Beverly Elizabeth. Ed is a 1977 graduate of Glenn Hills High School, a 1981 graduate of Augusta State University (formerly Augusta College) and a 1991 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law. After graduating from Augusta State University, Ed entered the United States Army and served for seven years as a field artillery officer before entering law school.

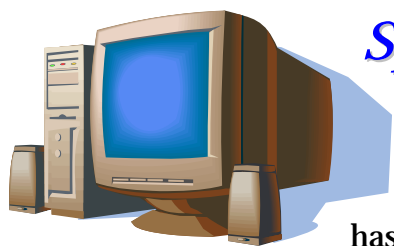
After graduating from the University of Georgia in 1991, Ed was a law clerk to the Honorable Dudley H. Bowen, Jr., Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia. An attorney since 1991, Ed entered private practice in 1992 as an

associate with Hull, Towill, Norman, & Barrett (now Hull, Towill, Norman, Barrett & Salley). A partner since 1999, his practice is in the area of general civil litigation, with an emphasis on employment discrimination law, and public finance law. He currently serves on the Attorney Advisory Committee for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, is an active member of the State Bar of Georgia, and has presented instructional materials on professionalism to attorneys across the state at the State Bar sponsored Continuing Legal Education seminars. He is an active member of the Augusta Bar Association, where he has served on the Executive Committee, the Law Day Committee and the Admissions Committee.

Ed served as Chairman of the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce in 2000. During his tenure as Chair, the chamber created the position of Director of Military Affairs to coordinate the communities relationship with Fort Gordon. Ed was the 1999 President and 2000 Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Leadership Georgia Foundation. In 1995, Ed chaired the Leadership Augusta Board. Ed has served as the President of the Academy of Richmond County Boosters Club, and Chairman of the St. John's Towers Advisory Board. During Ed's tenure as President of the East Georgia Easter Seals Society, he facilitated the organization's relocation to its current facility.

Ed currently serves as a Director on the Boards of the Georgia Bank & Trust Company, the Georgia Lawyers Insurance Company, the Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy, and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. He was recently elected President of the Augusta Technical College Board of Directors. He is a member of the Exchange Club of Augusta and the Daniel Field General Aviation Commission.

Ed was the 1995 Alvin W. Vogtle Volunteer of the Year and the 2002 Leadership Augusta Community Service Award. Ed's wife is the Director of Student Diversity at the Medical College of Georgia. His son Eddie is a junior at the University of Georgia and his daughter Elizabeth is in the seventh grade at Davidson Fine Arts School. Ed enjoys playing golf, reading, and attending sporting events.



Spotlight on... New IT office

You may be noticing the changes taking place in your own office thanks to the new and improved IT office. Computer specialists have been working for months to revamp the old system which has been in place since 1994. In computer years, that might as well be prehistoric! The new IT staff and Assistant Director, Michael Bottoms, promises a smoother, more efficient system and hope that everyone will be excited to use their new equipment! Bottoms, who has served with the General Assembly for 15 years, says that Senate staffers can expect new attitudes and a fresh start from the time everyone turns their new computers on! The smaller, more modern Dell Computers are light years ahead of the older computers and take up much less space on your desk!

Many of you may have just completed your training for Word, Excel and the new email system, Microsoft Outlook. Change can be hard for some of us, but IT assures us that our system rivals that of any state government's in the nation! If you need some help when you are working in unfamiliar territory—give IT a call. Bottoms says that they have a new “ticketing” system which will keep up with what time you called in for help and monitors your wait time...which can help you get help quicker from them and, in turn, complete your assignment when you need to!



The Senate Spotlight on...

Michael Bottoms

What is your current job and/or assignments?

I have recently been promoted to Assistant IT Director. I have been actively involved with the implementation of our new network. I am the primary contact for the contractors who have won the bid to install the new system. They make requests of our staff through me and I work to meet those needs.

How did you end up at the General Assembly?

I had a childhood friend who worked here back in the early 90's. He told me of an open slot in the Facilities Maintenance Department. The General Assembly needed a carpenter and I was recommended for the job by my friend. I came down and interviewed for the position and was hired by Mr. Paul Lynch who was at that time the Fiscal Officer. That was 15 years ago and I have managed to stick around and become part of the General Assembly family.

We know you have a great family-- tell us about them!

My wife's name is Holly. We have been happily married for 11 years. We have two children, McKinsey and Jay. McKinsey is the ultimate daddy's girl and is my pet. Holly says that I am a sucker for anything she wants. I would agree with that. Jay loves his mom and sometimes likes me. I pet Mc and pester Jay like any good dad would do. All of three of them are the most cherished blessings in my life.

I understand you are quite an accomplished carpenter...

I make do. My dad is the accomplished carpenter. He still builds kitchen cabinets and taught me how. That is the skill I brought to the General Assembly, but it was never something that I loved like my daddy does. I can still hang in there with the cabinet tools, but I am glad to say that woodworking is now just a hobby instead of something I have to do to make my living.



What is something you would like to accomplish in the next 10 years?

Professionally, I would like to still be involved with the IT department here at the General Assembly. I would like to be a big part of ushering in new technologies to help all of our employees and departments be more efficient and better at their respective jobs. I want to help change the face and the perception of LAN Support and work to set up a system that our staff and end-users can all be proud of.

Tell me a little about your background. Birthplace, brothers and sisters, etc.

I am a Georgia native. I live in Cumming, within about 10 miles from the home I was raised in. I have one older brother and two younger sisters. My brother and I have always been best friends and we still are today. My mom grew up in Tucker and my dad in Cumming. They met at the old downtown Sears where they both worked. My Daddy has always been my hero. When I was growing up he seemed as big as Paul Bunyan in those fairy tales. As a man he is still unrivaled in my eyes. Also, it was my dad who gave me my nickname "Boo Boo or Boo", which has been going on so long now that now one in the family remembers when or why it was given.

Favorite ways to spend time away from work?

I am very active in my Church where I serve as a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher for the college age adults. I love my Church and love to work in it. For hobbies, I have been playing men's league softball for over twenty years now. That is my first passion. I believe that you play to win and losing is terrible. So I usually play on teams that are serious about winning. I love the Georgia Bulldogs, and go to Athens to catch a game every time that I get the chance. I also enjoy fly fishing, camping, deer hunting, and playing in the yard with my children.

The General Assembly can be an exciting place to work. What are some of the lessons that you see people learn here everyday that you would try to convey to your children?

This is a tough one. I will take the fifth on what I see and don't see and simply say that I want my children to learn to work hard, do an honest day's work for an honest day's pay, and be proud of their accomplishments. Furthermore, I believe that happiness is an accomplishment, no matter what your status or position. I am your typical parent in that I want both of my children to grow up to be honest and decent. I hope to teach them to realize that they impact other people's lives everyday by the way they choose to act and be conscious of that fact.

Senate Budget's Spotlight on...Monthly Numbers



September revenues were up seven percent or \$95 million from September 2004. For the quarter, revenues are up 9.2 percent or \$326 million. This is compared to a budgeted increase of 6.1 percent.

These figures do not reflect the chain of events set off by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The September figures actually are for August sales so we don't know what the immediate results are economically for Georgia until the October collections come in

the first week of November or so. Additionally, the October figures will reflect the estimated \$75 million in gasoline tax reductions recently implemented for September.

So, October will be an important month.

Spotlight on...Safety!!

Your quick thinking helps capture criminals!!

Lieutenant Mike Griswell with the Georgia Department of Public Safety would like to thank the employees who assisted them in a serious of recent parking deck arrests. "Immediate response from state employees and the ability to give good descriptions to our communications operators helped them to effectively accomplish our mission and make these arrests," said Griswell.



Several of the recent incidents are as follows: On September 13, 2005, the Capitol Police Division, with the assistance of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, made an arrest involving a theft of over 3000 gallons of fuel oil from the Archives Building generator fuel storage tanks. The value of the fuel oil taken was approximately \$7000.00. The driver of the fuel truck involved in the theft was arrested after an extensive investigation which began on August 29, 2005. Also on September 13, 2005, officers of the Capitol Police Division received a call to the Pete Hackney Parking Deck at 162 Jessie Hill Jr. Drive. Witnesses reported someone going from car to car trying to break in. Officers surrounded the parking facility while other officers enter the facility to locate the person. The offender was arrested as he exited the parking facility at the exit near the childcare facility on Decatur Street. A screwdriver was found in his possession along with clothing items which have not been claimed. The suspect faces charges of criminal trespass, possession of tools for the commission of a crime, and theft of lost or mislaid property.

On September 16, 2005, Capitol Police officers responded to the parking facility at 204 Jessie Hill Jr. Dr. regarding a suspicious male walking around the parking deck. When officers arrived, it had been determined that the male had stolen a silver SUV and was trying to exit the parking deck. Parking officials refused to allow the vehicle to exit. In an attempt to back up and possibly try to escape, the driver wrecked inside the deck and was captured by Capitol Police officers. He was charged with auto theft, theft by receiving stolen property, and criminal damage to property. The investigation determined that he had entered the Floyd Building, stolen a cell phone and car keys from an unsecured office, and then walked through the parking deck adjacent to the building setting off the remote alarm to the vehicle. Once the vehicle was located, he got in and attempted to drive away.

"We would like to remind all employees to secure your valuables if you leave your office unattended for any length of time," continued Griswell. "Don't place purses under your desk or in an unsecured file cabinet and leave it unattended. Take it with you or lock your area."

"If you see something suspicious, call us immediately at **404-656-3281** and give us as much information as possible. Our job is to keep you and your property as safe as possible while you're here. We need your help in order to do our job effectively and efficiently."



The Senate Spotlights...
October Birthdays
Happy Birthday to....



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| Senator Bill Hamrick | <i>October 6th</i> |
| Senator Bill Heath | <i>October 20th</i> |
| Barbara Landrum - Senate Secretary | <i>October 7th</i> |
| Jeff Walker - Senate Research | <i>October 7th</i> |
| Annette Culpepper - Legislative Counsel | <i>October 8th</i> |
| Amanda Seals -Chief of Staff, President Pro Tem | <i>October 12th</i> |
| Darryl Jacobs - Fiscal Office | <i>October 13th</i> |
| Robyn Underwood - Fiscal Office | <i>October 29th</i> |
| Misty Holcomb - Senate Information | <i>October 30th</i> |
| Jason Fernandes - Senate Budget | <i>October 31st</i> |
| Brian Johnson - Senate Research | <i>October 31st</i> |

Happy Belated Birthday to:

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|---|----------------------------------|
| Bob Ewing - Assistant Secretary of Senate | <i>September 9th</i> |
| Mary Riddle - Legislative Counsel | <i>September 10th</i> |
| Dawn Farmer - Legislative Counsel | <i>September 11th</i> |
| Jeff Lanier - Legislative Counsel | <i>September 13th</i> |
| Larry Mauldin - Fiscal Office | <i>September 18th</i> |
| Jessie Thompson - Secretary of Senate's office | <i>September 19th</i> |
| Wayne Allen - Legislative Counsel | <i>September 26th</i> |

The Senate Spotlight is a product of the Senate Information Office. If you have a suggestion or a person you would like to be considered for the Senate Spotlight on Employees, please contact us at 404.656.0028.